CENTRAL JAIL—ACCOMMODATION

139. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) for how many prisoners is there accommodation at present in the Central Jail, Viyyur;

(*b*) the number of prisoners at present who are undergoing imprisonment there?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) At present, there is accommodation for 327 prisoners in the Central Jail, as below.—

Hospital	19
Quarantine	26
Civil block	16
Leper block	12
Female block	14
Main blocks ..	240

(*b*) The lock-up on 6th July 1941 was 373.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, how many of these 373 prisoners are politicals?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That question does not arise. He has not asked the question about the political prisoners.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The answer gives the total number of prisoners in the Central Jail. I am asking the question as to how many politicals there are. The Joint Secretary says that it does not arise. Is he to rule that the question does not arise?

Mr. President: He objects that the question does not arise.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I want to know what your ruling is.

Mr. President: What do you want now? How do you define "politicals"?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Prisoners who have been imprisoned in the Central Jail for political offences.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether the political prisoners are put in the main block or in any other block?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* They are put in the Central Jail. Where exactly they are put, I do not know.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Are not political prisoners put in the quarantine block?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are there special rules for accommodation?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There is no special rule.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* How many prisoners will be put in the same room considering that accommodation has to be found for 373 prisoners?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I cannot say definitely. They have to be accommodated somehow. We have found that the accommodation is insufficient and we are taking steps to improve accommodation.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Have Government any idea of the number of cells?

Mr. President: It was told that there was no accommodation, and that they are putting up a new building.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* When more than one person is shut up in the same room, there is the difficulty of the happening of unnatural offences.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether it has come to the notice of Government through the local daily that the political prisoners are being badly treated?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It has not come to our notice that they are being badly treated.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether the juvenile offenders are put in the same cells?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether the juveniles are separately put?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* They are put separately.

Mr. Puthoor Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Am I to take it that bad treatment of the political prisoners has not come to the notice of Government?

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Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It has not officially come to the notice of Government. It has come to the notice of Government that they have been very well treated in the Central Jail.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* The Joint Secretary stated that it was not officially taken to the notice of Government. Will the paper publications give occasion for Government to take official notice?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* When the paper reports came to our notice, we called for official information, and we found that they are very well looked after.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി: പൊളിറ്റിക്കൽ പ്രിസിനേഴ്സിനോടു നന്നായിട്ടു പെരുമാറുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There are Honorary Visitors who have recorded a very faovurable impression.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി: അവരെപ്പറ്റി വല്ലതും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: കംപ്ലെയിൻറുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവർ അതു റിക്കാർഡുചെയ്യും. അതൊന്നും ഇല്ല.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Is there provision for a separate block for the political prisoners and another one for juvenile offenders in the proposed improvement of the Viyyur Central Jail?

Mr. P.V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That is a question which will be considered after the cells are complete. Now, they are only in the course of construction. We have not yet decided as to how these cells are to be assigned.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know the nature of the enquiries which Government conducted as regards the bad treatment of political prisoners?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We called for reports from the officers of Government and also the impressions of the Honorary Visitors there were perused and we found that they have all given very good impressions of what they saw in the Central Jail.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether apart from calling for reports, Government have conducted independent enquiries?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* They called for reports. What is the independent enquiry the Hon'ble Member suggests?

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Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I am suggesting that Government should have conducted an enquiry by sending somebody not connected with the Jail.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I suppose such a thing Government cannot contemplate with equity to their officers there and also to the Honorary Visitors who visit there.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I want to know whether Government have conducted any such enquiry?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No, we have not conducted any such enquiry.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* May I know who are the Honorary visitors and how many are they?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Three.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether the Honorary Visitors of the Jail are nominated by Government on the recommendation of the Inspector-General of Prisons?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* They are nominated by Government. It need not necessarily be on the recommendation of the Inspector-General of Prisons. But he is also consulted.

മിസ്റ്റർ പുത്തൂർ അച്യുതമേനോൻ: ഓണറി വിസിറേഴ്സിന്റെ അടുത്ത ജയിലിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന പുള്ളികൾക്ക സങ്കടം പറയുവാനുള്ള അവസരം ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കാറുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: ധാരാളമുണ്ട്.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I was an Honorary Visitor for 10 years. If as a result of any complaint made to an Honorary Visitor they are taken to task, it is one of the gravest offence on the part of the Jail authorities. They are given all facilities and latitudes to approach you and talk, and Jail authorities are not expected to take any disciplinary action as a result of the complaints. I was a Visitor for 8 to 10 years. During that time, this was the rule, and I think the same rules are now in existence. If any complaint is made, it will not be taken note of for the purpose of punishment by the Jail authorities. It is a very serious offence if they do it.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Are Government quite sure that the juveniles are kept separate?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

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Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* My information is otherwise.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Your information is wrong.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether in the recent report of bad treatment of politicals, the Honorary Visitors have recorded any such complaints which were referred to them ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We have got a remark made by one of the Honorary Visitors. I think his name is Mr. Ramanandaswami. I don't quite remember that. He has absolutely no complaint to make against Government or against the Jail authorities.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether there was a hunger strike on the part of the politicals ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There was some gesture in that direction.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* What is meant by gesture ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There was no regular hunger-strike. They abstained from food for some time and then they came round.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether there was any particular reason for the hunger strike ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There was no particular reason.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Jail rules of our State are the same as those in British India in the case of political prisoners ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I have not made a comparative study of it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to make a comparative study ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes, if that is absolutely necessary.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether there is provision in the Jail rules to accommodate persons of particular communities in a particular way ?

Mr. President : Are not the Jail rules here ?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Yes.

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Mr. President: Then you may refer to it.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to treat the prisoners according to the principles of the Staff Selection Board?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Have the Government received complaints from the prisoners themselves direct?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* They say that they have not been received.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I am asking whether they have received complaints directly?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether Government have made an enquiry into this gesture?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We have made an enquiry.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know who conducted the enquiry?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The District Magistrate.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether there is objection to produce the Honorary Visitor's report.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Has any case of maltreatment been brought to the notice of Government?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No.

APPOINTMENTS—CONSIDERATION OF SENIORITY

140. **Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):*

(*a*) will Government be pleased to print and place on the table of the House the Circular No. 20/16, dated 15th May 1941 issued by Government regarding the adherence to the rules regarding seniority in matters of appointment;

(*b*) is it the intention of Government to take into consideration the seniority of a candidate in one department in appointments to be made in other departments;

(*c*) have Government with them an easy referencer to know the relative seniority of all Government officers?

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